

Iontana Audubon

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SENATE LOCAL GOVERNMENT OM TIBIHKE

Testimony on SB 51 (and SB 167) Senate Local Government Committee January 11, 2007

Madam Chair

Me. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

My name is Molly Immen and I'm here today representing Montana Audubon.

Montana Audubon supports SB 51 (and SB 167). More and more development is taking place in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) where people and property are being put in harms way. This pattern of development net only gobbles up important wildlife habitat because of the amount of development as well as the patterns resulting from scattered houses, but it also costs taxpayers significant resources to fight wildland fires. Montana Audubon supports both SB 51 and 167 because both bills provide incentives to local governments to plan to more effectively deal with this costly pattern of development.

Thank You